

**HB 834 – Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – Requirements (Electric Vehicle Charging Reliability Act)**

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) supports with amendments *House Bill 834 – Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure – Requirements (Electric Vehicle Charging Reliability Act)*. House Bill 834 would expand the existing Electric Vehicle (EV) Pilot Program. The bill also would establish reliability standards for the availability of EV chargers.

Maryland has adopted a goal of 300,000 zero-emission vehicles on the road by 2025 to help in achieving state greenhouse gas reduction goals. Naturally, the expansion and reliability of the EV charging system is necessary to support that zero-emission vehicle target. In fact, BGE is an active partner in this effort.

BGE launched its EVsmart Program and is helping to propel progress on Maryland's Air Quality and Chesapeake Bay goals. Under EVsmart, BGE plans to install 500 public access charging stations throughout its service territory. There two changes to the bill, however, BGE finds reasonable and aligns the legislation with current practice.

First, the bill requires a utility operating an EV charging network have stations with an average annual uptime of 97% of greater. This is a topic the Maryland Public Service Commission's (PSC) Electric Vehicle Working Group were discussing, however, they decided to put those conversations on hold until the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) standards are finalized. Because the working group is still considering this, and the federal NEVI standards have not been adopted, BGE feels it premature to set performance standards not aligned with federal NEVI standards and respectfully ask that that that provision be removed.

Also, BGE is required by the PSC to report on its EVsmart program on a semi-annual basis. Changing the legislation language to align the reporting period from a quarterly basis to semi-annually would meet the reporting requirements already established by the Commission.

BGE respectfully requests that the Committee issue a favorable vote with amendments on this legislation and welcomes the opportunity to work with the sponsor on this legislation.